

**California Department of Conservation
Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program**

2000 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Butte (Northern Half)

FIELD MAPPER(S): Kerri Kisko

PHOTOGRAPHY:

source: NASA-Ames Research Center

date: 14 September 1999

scale: 1:130,000

film type: CIR Transparencies

coverage gaps: Extreme northeastern portion of survey area

WRITTEN OR ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES: *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 1998 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made while conducting the 2000 update.*

➤ *local review comments:* none

cities:

county:

others:

➤ *personal contacts:* none

➤ *websites:* none

1998-2000 CHANGES*: *Please summarize the most common changes to the maps. List representative locations (quads) of each type of change encountered. Make sure to list and describe particularly large, unusual or notable changes and give estimates of the acreage involved.*

➤ I → D: There were nine changes in this category. The only significant changes were a water holding structure of approximately 50 acres on the Ord Ferry quad and a new housing development of about 100 acres on the Nord quad. The other new developments consisted of small tracts of new homes and a couple of warehouses on the Nord, Chico, and Richardson Springs quads.

➤ N, G, X → D: There were three changes on the Chico quad consisting of new tract homes, retail establishments, and a new school (Marsh Junior High). Paved parking lots and some equestrian facilities were added to Butte College on the Hamlin Canyon quad. New homes were constructed on the Nord, Richardson Springs, and Paradise West quads.

➤ I, N → G: There were six changes in this category. Five of these changes involved irrigated farmland reverting to native vegetation. On the Chico quad there were two such changes of approximately 50 acres each. The Nord quad had two changes also, one of which was approximately 460 acres. On the Foster Island quad a change of about 120 acres occurred. This tract of land had been marked fallow for three or four update cycles, however there was no access to this particular field. On the Hamlin Canyon quad a nonirrigated tract of farmland of approximately 90 acres had reverted to native vegetation.

➤ I → X: There were 25 changes in this category. The most significant changes occurred on the Llano Seco and Ord Ferry quads where large tracts of land, ranging from 200 to 1300 acres, have reverted to marsh near the Sacramento River. Smaller tracts of land on numerous quads, including Chico, Nelson, Cherokee, Foster Island, and Nord also reverted to marsh or native vegetation. Ranchettes (low-density rural housing) were fairly common and were found on the Nelson, Nord, Paradise East, and Cohasset quads. Other changes include a wetland on the Nelson quad that extends to the Shippee quad (see the 2000 field report for the southern half of Butte County) and two areas of agricultural buildings on the Nord quad.

➤ N, G, X → I: There were four changes in this category. The Nord quad had three of these changes. A new nursery was found as well as an irrigated pasture. A new orchard of approximately 200 acres was found near the western edge of the City of Chico and extends onto the Richardson Springs quad. On the Foster Island quad a small new orchard was discovered from the aerial photo. Unfortunately it was near the Sacramento River and there was no access to the field.

➤ N, G, → X: There were eight changes in this category. Near the Sacramento River, nonirrigated farmland reverted to marsh on the Llano Seco and Ord Ferry quads. Ranchettes were found on the Chico and Richardson Springs quads. On the Hamlin Canyon quad an equestrian facility (that extends onto the Cherokee quad) was found as well as some agricultural buildings. On the Nord quad a new orchard polygon has caused a portion (less than 40 acres) of a grazing polygon to become isolated and, hence, it needed to be reclassified as other land.

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2000.*

PROBLEM AREAS: *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2002? Why?*

The City of Chico added a large amount of new subdivisions during this update. Some areas are already showing signs of new or potential growth. The Chico, Richardson Springs, and Nord quads should be carefully inspected for new urban growth. Near the Sacramento River there are large tracts of fallow land to which there is virtually no access. These lands are predominately on the Llano Seco and Ord Ferry quads and may be difficult to classify.

OUT OF DATE BASE MAPS: *Please list any base maps used for update or publication of this county which are woefully out of date due to extensive new development, road construction, etc.*

The quads near the Sacramento River were last photo revised in 1969 and some of the river meanders have migrated out of position in the last 30 years. The quads affected by this are the Glenn, Llano Seco, Ord Ferry, Foster Island, and Vina quads.

On the Chico quad, the eastern part of the City of Chico has undergone extensive development. Major roads may need to be drawn in before going out in the field.

Note—after completion of fieldwork in this county, we got the Fish and Game lands layer and the USFWS properties as well. Documentation for footnotes on conversions to X in 2000 (names of wetland facilities) were gathered from these ancillary files. Additional changes from ag to habitat that might have occurred in less than 3 update cycles by referencing this data were saved for next time around.

Here is info from Henry Lomeli at DFG [hlomeli@dgf.cd.gov]:

I'm the DFG district biologist for Butte County. In the future, if you need any additional help feel free to contact me directly and I'll do whatever I can to help.

I looked at the maps you sent to Pat Perkins and realized that the following contacts would most likely be able to offer you the best answers.

John Carlon
Sacramento River Partners
(530) 894-3474
sacriver@c-zone.net

Joe Silveira
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
(530) 934-2801
josephsilveira_@fws.gov

The Nature Conservancy
Chico Office
(530) 897-6370

Let me know if you need anything further.

LABOR ESTIMATE: *Please estimate the amount of time spent on the following tasks.*

photo interpretation, start date: September 20, 2000

photo interpretation, number of days: 11

ground truthing dates: 2

days for map compilation and clean up: 3

*** Note:** P = Prime Farmland; S = Farmland of Statewide Importance; U = Unique Farmland; L = Farmland of Local Importance; G = Grazing Land; D = Urban and Built-up Land; X = Other Land; W = Water Areas; I = Irrigated Farmland; N = Nonirrigated

Farmland

Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:

www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp